

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ADDIS 12645 310539Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04
 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 /028 W
 -----310851Z 040837 /21
R 301421Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2175
INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 12645

PLEASE PASS DEPT OF LABOR AND SUBSTANCE TO AALC, N.Y.

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, ET
SUBJ: RECENT ETHIOPIAN LABOR DEVELOPMENTS

SUMMARY: CONFERENCE TO FORM ALL ETHIOPIAN TRADE UNION (AETU)
RUMORED TO BE IMMINENT MONTH OF DECEMBER IS REPORTEDLY SCHEDULED
TO BEGIN DECEMBER 31 WITH AETU TO BE ESTABLISHED JANUARY 7.
RELIEABLE SOURCES REPORT CURRENT PROVISIONAL MILITARY ADMINISTRA-
TIVE COUNCIL (PMAC) REORGANIZATION AND UNCERTAINTY OF FUTURE
POWER ALIGNMENTS CAUSED SLIGHT DELAY. MID-NOVEMBER FAILURE OF
BANKING, INSURANCE AND OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTION WORKERS'
MEETING TO FORM LAST OF NINE OVERALL UNIONS, AND CONFUSION OVER
LEADERSHIP OF FOUR OVERALL UNIONS CHOSEN PRIOR TO JUNE, HAS
NECESSITATED REVISION OF EPMG'S PLANS TO SELECT AETU LEADERSHIP.
END SUMMARY.

1. WEEKLY AMHARIC PAPER YEZAREITU HAS ANNOUNCED SEMINAR
TO FORM ALL ETHIOPIAN TRADE UNION (AETU) WILL BEGIN DECEMBER
31 AND BE COMPLETED BY JANUARY 7. INVITATIONS HAVE
BEEN SENT TO NINE OVERALL UNIONS (SIC) AND BANKING AND
INSURANCE ORGANIZATIONS. PAST REPORTS LED EMBASSY TO BELIEVE
BANKING AND INSURANCE INSTITUTION EMPLOYEES TO BE NINTH OF
OVERALL UNIONS. EPMG LABOR AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT HEAD, HOWEVER,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ADDIS 12645 310539Z

ACKNOWLEDGED TO EMBOFF LEADERSHIP OF NINTH OVERALL UNION NEVER
CHOSEN DESPITE EARLY NOVEMBER MEETING IN ADDIS TO DO SO.
DEPARTMENT HEAD ALLEGED CAUSE WAS INTRODUCTION OF NEW CURRENCY
WHICH OCCUPIED POTENTIAL PARTICIPANTS IN
PROVINCES UNTIL NOVEMBER 14. HOWEVER, RELIEABLE SOURCE STATED
FINANCIAL INSTITUTION WORKERS REFUSED TO PARTICIPATE IN FORMATION

OF OVERALL UNION BECAUSE OF ARRESTS OF PREVIOUS LEADERSHIP.
THUS SEPARATE INVITATION TO BANK AND INSURANCE EMPLOYEES.

2. VARIOUS SOURCES REPORT LEADERSHIP FOUR OVERALL UNIONS
CHOSEN BEFORE JUNE 2 DISRUPTIONS (REFTEL E) HAS LARGELY
DISAPPEARED, WITH EXCEPTION OF AGRICULTURAL UNION LEADERS.
REASONS FOR DISAPPEARANCES ALLEGED TO BE EPRP CONNECTIONS OF
LEADERSHIP AND EPMG INTIMIDATION OF THOSE WHO NOT MEMBERS
OF ALL ETHIOPIAN SOCIALIST ORGANIZATION (AESO). AS A RESULT,
RELIABLE SOURCE BELIEVES LEADERSHIP OF AETU WILL BE CHOSEN
FROM LEADERS OF FIVE OVERALL UNIONS; AGRICULTURE, WHOLESALE
AND RETAIL TRADE, MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, MINING AND
QUARRYING AND TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS OVERALL UNIONS
WITH POSSIBILITY ONE OR TWO OVERALL UNION REPRESENTATIVES
MAY ATTEND. RELIABLE SOURCE REPORTS PARTICIPATING OVERALL
UNION LEADERS HAVE GONE TO AMBO, 125 KMS. WEST OF ADDIS, TO
HOLD SEMINAR FREE FROM ANY POSSIBLE LOBBYING BY UNION MEMBERS.
(ORIGINAL PLAN WAS TO SELECT NINE AETU EXECUTIVES FROM 81
OVERALL UNION LEADERS.)

3. MOST OFT-MENTIONED NAMES FOR AETU PRESIDENT BEFORE PMAC
REORGANIZATION WERE ASRAT BEKELE, CHAIRMAN OF MANUFACTURING
INDUSTRIES UNION WHO FROM META BREWERY AND ALLEGEDLY STRONG
SUPPORTER OF POLITBURO CHAIRMAN, HAILU FIDA, AND ATO TEMESIGEN
(LNU), CHAIRMAN OF AGRICULTURAL UNION WHO SUPPOSEDLY IN DIRECT
CONTACT WITH PMAC MEMBERS AND THEREFORE NOT AS POPULAR WITH
POLITBURO AS ASRAT BEKELE.

4. COMMENT: UNCERTAINTY ABOUT NEW PMAC ALIGNMENT HAS CLOUDED
FUTURE INFLUENCE OF POLITBURO AND HAILU FIDA'S FOLLOWERS.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ADDIS 12645 310539Z

EVENTUAL AETU LEADERSHIP MAY INDICATE MORE CLEARLY WHAT
EFFECT PMAC REORGANIZATION HAVING ON POLITBURO AND ITS
ADHERENTS. MEANWHILE, OVERALL LABOR SITUATION HAS BEEN
GENERALLY CALM SINCE END OF SEPTEMBER WITH NO WORK STOPPAGES.
NEVERTHELESS, MANAGERS HAVE BEEN FORCED TO ALLOCATE
INORDINATE AMOUNT OF TIME TO SETTLE PETTY DISPUTES, USUALLY
INVOLVING PERSONNEL AND FRINGE BENEFIT ISSUES. END COMMENT.

5. EMBASSY POUCHING TRANSLATION OF INTERVIEW WITH
LABOR AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT HEAD, YEMANE ARAYA, WHICH APPEARED
IN DECEMBER 25 AMHARIC PAPER YEZAREITU INTERVIEW CONTRASTS
PROGRESS MADE SINCE 1975 LABOR PROCLAMATION TO LACK OF
SAME PRIOR TO PROCLAMATION. IT INCLUDES SOME STATISTICS
ON LABOR SITUATION.
TIENKEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR UNIONS, LABOR INSTITUTES, ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ADDIS12645
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D770001-0357
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976121/aaaaaawx.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 JUN 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <29 JUN 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RECENT ETHIOPIAN LABOR DEVELOPMENTS SUMMARY: CONFERENCE TO FORM ALL ETHIOPIAN TRADE UNION (AETU)
RUMORED TO BE IMMINENT MONTH OF DECEMBER IS REPORT
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, ET, AETU-ALL ETHIOPIAN TRADE UNION
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006